

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ROLANDO TAYUN,

Plaintiff,

-against-

JMFF LLC d/b/a DORLAN'S TAVERN &
OYSTER BAR, FERNANDO DALLORSO,
JEREMY DAHM, MATTHEW ANDREWS, and:
FRANK CASANO,

Defendants.
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VERNON S. BRODERICK, United States District Judge:

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16-CV-8490 (VSB)

ORDER

On June 1, 2018, the parties informed me that they had reached a settlement in this Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") case. (Doc. 58.) On June 5, 2018, I entered an Order discontinuing this matter without prejudice to restoring the action to my docket if the application to restore was made within thirty days. (Doc. 59.) On July 5, 2018, counsel for Plaintiff made a timely application to reopen this case. (Doc. 62.)

Parties may not privately settle FLSA claims with prejudice absent the approval of the district court or the Department of Labor. *See Cheeks v. Freeport Pancake House, Inc.*, 796 F.3d 199, 200 (2d Cir. 2015). Rather, the parties must satisfy this Court that their settlement is "fair and reasonable." *Velasquez v. SAFI-G, Inc.*, No. 15cv3068, 2015 WL 5915843, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 7, 2015).

In order to determine whether an agreement is fair and reasonable under the FLSA, I must:

consider the totality of circumstances, including but not limited to the following [five] factors: (1) the plaintiff's range of possible recovery; (2) the extent to which "the settlement will enable the parties to avoid anticipated burdens and expenses in establishing their respective claims and defenses"; (3) the seriousness of the litigation risks faced by the parties; (4) whether "the settlement agreement is the product of arm's

length bargaining between experienced counsel”; and (5) the possibility of fraud or collusion.

Beckert v. Rubinov, No. 15 Civ. 1951(PAE), 2015 WL 6503832, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 27, 2015) (quoting *Wolinsky v. Scholastic Inc.*, 900 F. Supp. 2d 332, 335 (S.D.N.Y. 2012)). And, if the settlement agreement includes a provision for attorney’s fees, I must “separately assess the reasonableness of plaintiffs’ attorney’s fees.” *Lliguichuzcha v. Cinema 60, LLC*, 948 F. Supp. 2d 362, 366 (S.D.N.Y. 2013). In order to aid in this determination, “counsel must submit evidence providing a factual basis for the [attorney’s fees] award.” *Beckert*, 2015 WL 6503832, at *2.

Therefore, it is hereby:

ORDERED that my previous Order discontinuing this matter, (Doc. 59), is overruled and withdrawn and Plaintiff’s motion to reopen the case, (Doc. 62), is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order the parties shall provide this Court with the terms of the settlement in order to ensure that, in compliance with the FLSA, they are fair and reflect a reasonable compromise of disputed issues.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, along with the terms of the settlement, the parties provide this court with a joint letter of no more than three (3) pages explaining why they believe the settlement reflects a fair and reasonable compromise of disputed issues. Such letter should include, but need not be limited to, information concerning the five (5) factors identified in *Beckert*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if the agreement includes a provision for attorney’s fees, the parties submit evidence providing a factual basis for the attorney’s fees award. Such basis should include “contemporaneous billing records documenting, for each attorney, the date, the hours expended, and the nature of the work done.” *Lopez v. Nights of Cabiria, LLC*, No. 14-cv-1274 (LAK), 2015 WL 1455689, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 30, 2015).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 3, 2018
New York, New York

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vernon Broderick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "B".

Vernon S. Broderick
United States District Judge